

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T 32060

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT
KAUNDA FROM THE SECRETARY. DELIVER ASAP DECEMBER 11.

2. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 9 HAS JUST REACHED ME
IN LONDON. I RECOGNIZE THE DEPTH OF YOUR SENTIMENT AND
WISH TO TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY.

I REGARD MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU AS ONE OF THE
CLOSEST I HAVE ENJOYED AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE
INITIATIVE WHICH WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE WELFARE OF AFRICA AND THE
CAUSE OF PEACE. THERE ARE FEW MEN I HOLD IN HIGHER
REGARD THAN YOURSELF; THERE IS NO ONE I TRUST MORE,
NOR IS THERE ANYONE ON WHOSE JUDGMENT I HAVE MORE
HEAVILY RELIED. YOUR SPECIAL GESTURES OF FRIENDSHIP
TO ME HAVE BEEN AMONG MY MOST MOVING EXPERIENCES. I
CONSIDER THE LUSAKA SPEECH AS ONE OF THE BASIC
GUIDELINES OF US POLICY. HAVING STARTED THE PROCESS
IN YOUR COUNTRY WE WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE IT IN CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH YOU.

IT IS VITAL THEREFORE THAT WE NOT MISUNDERSTAND
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EACH OTHER OR THE PURPOSES OF OUR UNDERTAKING IN

ZIMBABWE. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF MAJORITY RULE WITHIN THE TIME AGREED AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. I ALSO WISH TO ASSURE YOU, AS I POINTED OUT IN MY LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 27 THAT THE US SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL LEAD ZIMBABWE TO INDEPENDENCE SHOULD CONTAIN MAJORITY AFRICAN REPRESENTATION. WE WILL LEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THE REALIZATION OF THESE OBJECTIVES. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT IN STATING OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE DRIFT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE NO THREAT WAS INTENDED.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DECIDED IS THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH SMITH SURRENDERS POWER TO A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. THIS GOVERNMENT WE AGREE WILL PROVIDE AFRICANS A CONTROLLING VOICE AND SHOULD INCLUDE ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK I AM CONDUCTING MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVE THERE IS REASON FOR HOPE. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE BRITISH ARE AT LAST PREPARED TO MOVE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION AND ASSUME MANY OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH YOU AND THE OTHER FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE SO LONG ASKED FOR. WE SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE PROCEED.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT NEITHER THE RHODESIANS NOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES KNEW ABOUT EITHER THE FACT OR THE SUBSTANCE OF MY LETTER TO YOU - NOR HAVE WE SHARE IT WITH ANYONE ELSE.

MY ASSOCIATION WITH YOU HAS BEEN OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ME. WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH MUCH TOGETHER AND MY RESPECT FOR YOUR IDEALS AND PURPOSES HAS BEEN CONSTANT. I COUNT ON MAINTAINING OUR FRIENDSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING IN TOUCH WITH YOU IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

WITH WARM REGARDS,
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SINCERELY, HENRY A. KISSINGER

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